

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Transfer of council authority at Two Rivers Middle School, Covington Independent Schools, to the superintendent or highly skilled educator

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.6455; KRS 160.345; KRS 160.346

Action Question:

Should school council authority of Two Rivers Middle School be transferred to the superintendent or to the Highly Skilled Educator and should the school council continue to act in an advisory capacity until council authority has been restored?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. KRS 158.6455 requires a second scholastic audit to take place in any school that has failed to meet its CATS accountability goals for two successive accountability cycles. As a result of the school's failure to reach its goals for two cycles, KRS 158.6455 also requires an audit of the school district in which the school resides.

KRS 160.346 gives guidance related to the removal of school council authority if these audits recommend such action be taken. Each audit team can recommend that council authority be transferred to the local superintendent or to the Highly Skilled Educator assigned to the school.

KRS 160.346(3)(b) states: "If both audit teams recommend transfer of the council's authority to a highly skilled educator or if both recommend transfer of the council's authority but are not in agreement as to the party to be granted authority, the commissioner shall make a recommendation to the Kentucky Board of Education, which shall make the final determination. The school council and the superintendent may submit supporting information. The commissioner shall include as part of the recommendation whether the school council shall continue in an advisory capacity. The Kentucky Board of Education shall consider the audit reports, the commissioner's recommendation, and supporting information provided by the school council and superintendent."

In the case of Two Rivers Middle School the school level audit recommended transfer of authority to the Highly Skilled Educator and the district level audit recommended transfer of authority to the superintendent.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

It is the recommendation of the Commissioner (see attached letter) that school council authority of Two Rivers Middle School be transferred to the superintendent. It is further recommended that the school council at Two Rivers Middle School act in an advisory capacity during the period until the council at Two Rivers Middle School regains its authority. Superintendent

Jackson is working to improve teaching and learning systemically throughout the entire district. In addition, Ms. Jackson is providing regular reports to the Kentucky Board of Education on the progress at Two Rivers. Staff believes she is best equipped to have the authority to make decisions that will improve teaching and learning at Two Rivers Middle School.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

District leadership must take an active role in ensuring that schools reach proficiency.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

The scholastic audit team for Two Rivers Middle School recommended transferring council authority to the Highly Skilled Educator. The Covington Independent Schools district scholastic audit team recommended transfer to Lynda Jackson, superintendent.

Contact Person:

Sally Sugg, Associate Commissioner
Office of Leadership and School Improvement
502-564-2116
sally.sugg@education.ky.gov

Deputy Commissioner

Commissioner of Education

Date:

May 2009